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FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

IFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 2117**
Keiji SUGIYAMA et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2006_0094A
Serial No. 10/567,685 : Group Art Unit 3661
Filed February 9, 2006 :

INFORMATION NOTIFICATION
APPARATUS AND INFORMATION
NOTIFICATION METHOD

**SUBMISSION OF ENGLISH VERSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY AND WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner are:

- 1) An English version of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability; and
- 2) An English version of the Written Opinion of the International Searching

Authority.

Respectfully submitted,

Keiji SUGIYAMA et al.

By: 

Charles R. Watts
Registration No. 33,142
Attorney for Applicants

CRW/asd
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
August 23, 2006

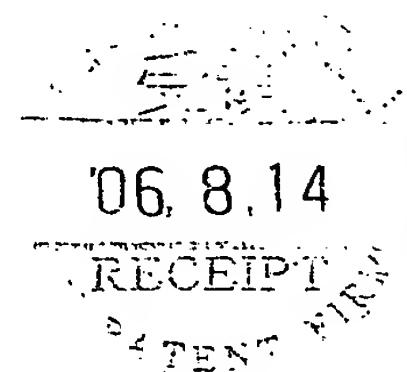
From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL
OF COPIES OF TRANSLATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY
(CHAPTER I OR CHAPTER II
OF THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY)
(PCT Rules 44bis.3(c) and 72.2)

To:

NII, Hiromori
c/o NII Patent Firm
6F, Tanaka Ito Pia Shin-Osaka Bldg.
3-10, Nishi Nakajima 5-chome
Yodogawa-ku, Osaka-city
Osaka 5320011
JAPON



Date of mailing (<i>day/month/year</i>) 03 August 2006 (03.08.2006)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference P36910-P0	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/JP2004/017952	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 02 December 2004 (02.12.2004)
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD. et al	

1. Transmittal of the translation to the applicant.



The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I).



The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the English translation of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

2. Transmittal of the copy of the translation to the designated or elected Offices.

The International Bureau notifies the applicant that copies of that translation have been transmitted to the following designated or elected Offices requiring such translation:

None

The following designated or elected Offices, having waived the requirement for such a transmittal at this time, will receive copies of that translation from the International Bureau only upon their request:

AE, AG, AL, AM, AP, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EA, EC, EE, EG, EP, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OA, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

3. Reminder regarding translation into (one of) the official language(s) of the elected Office(s).

The applicant is reminded that, where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II).

It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned within the applicable time limit (Rule 74.1). See Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide for further details.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	Authorized officer Masashi Honda Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44*bis*)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P36910-P0	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/017952	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 02 December 2004 (02.12.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 05 December 2003 (05.12.2003)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.		

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 *bis*.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44*bis*.3(c) and 93*bis*.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44*bis*.2).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Date of issuance of this report 24 July 2006 (24.07.2006)
Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Masashi Honda</div> e-mail: pt08@wipo.int

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

TRANSLATION

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

P36910-P0

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/017952

International filing date (day/month/year)

02.12.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)

05.12.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/017952

Box No. 1

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐

This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language

_____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under

Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

☐

a sequence listing

☐

table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

☐

in written format

☐

in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

☐

contained in the international application as filed.

☐

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐

furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/017952

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-8</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims _____	YES
	Claims <u>1-8</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-8</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document 1: JP, 2002-032649, A (Toshiba Corporation), 31 January, 2002 (31.01.02), full text, all drawings

Document 2: Building a context-aware personal agent in a ubiquitous environment and an experiment to verify it (Masanori Hattori et al.), Journal of Society of Electronic Information and Communication Science D-I, 1 August, 2003 (01.08.03), Vol. J86-D-I, No.8, pages 543-552

Explanation:

(1) The subject matters of claims 1, 7 and 8 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1 and 2 cited in the ISR.

Document 1 states that merchandise information (a shopping memo) of articles planned to be purchased and the like is prepared, and retained on a network, that information is provided in accordance with a user's taste, and that the electronic merchandise information (a shopping memo) is shared with a plurality of users.

It is also disclosed that information is distributed according to the user's position information. There is no particular difference between these constituent features and the subject matters of claims 1, 7 and 8.

Document 2 also shows similar constituent features.

(2) The subject matters of claims 2 and 3 do not appear to involve an inventive step.

The constituent features of document 1 allow one to share the shopping memo, which is a record of merchandise information, with others and sharing it enables one to notify the information to other users. In other words, the constituent features make it possible to identify a group to which one belongs based on whether one is in a sharing relationship and so there is no particular difference from the subject matters of claims 2 and 3.

(3) The subject matter of claim 4 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1 and 2.

Document 1 relates to the distribution of information on the basis of a user's physical condition, specifically, the position of a user's location. It is so constituted that a user profile can be updated via a user interface.

(4) The subject matter of claim 5 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1 and 2.

In distributing information, limiting the number of distribution addresses is simply a matter of design.

(5) The subject matter of claim 6 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/017952

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

documents 1 and 2.

In document 1, it is so constituted that when purchasing an article, information on already purchased articles is provided to the network and removed from the shopping memo.